REMARKS

Claims 1-19 are pending. Claims 1-19 stand rejected. Applicant is amending claims 1, 5, 10, 11 and 15.

Applicant acknowledges withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph.

Applicant is filing a Supplementary Information Disclosure Statement and requests consideration as discussed in this paper.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 5 and 15 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly failing to comply with the enablement requirement.

The Office Action alleges that "a breakout room" is not disclosed in the specification to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to depict what "a breakout room" is or could be. (Page 2, paragraph 4.) The Office Action requests that the Applicant point out in the main body of the specification and the drawings examples that can directly support any definitions or examples to the limitation of "a breakout room". The Office Action further alleges (Page 8, paragraph 39.):

> As to part 1, there is not disclosure in the specification that teaches what would constitute a breakout room nor is there any information in the specification that would make a breakout room unique or any different than another chat room. The specification only mentions that there is a "breakout room".

The patent application, as originally filed, discloses "a breakout room," e.g., Figure 89, page 203, line 17 – page 204, line 7, Figure 95, and page 207, line 7 – page 208, line 4. Moreover, Applicant believes the claim language in claims 5 and 15 is in accordance with MPEP § 2111.01, which states:

> The words of a claim must be given their "plain meaning" unless they are defined in the specification.

where

> "Plain meaning" refers to the ordinary and customary meaning given to the term by those of ordinary skill in the art.

Applicant believes that "a breakout room" is known to one of ordinary skill in the art and does not need further explanation in the specification. For example, **Meetings: Do's, Don'ts and Donuts**, which is cited in a Supplementary IDS, discusses using break-out rooms for break-out

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groups. This exemplifies the depiction of what "a breakout room" is. Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 5 and 15.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-19 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over U.S. 6,347,333 (Eisendrath) in view of U.S. 6,078,948 (Podgorny).

Regarding claim 1, Applicant is amending the claim to include the feature of "providing a selected virtual university activity type based on the interaction parameters and the destination, the selected virtual activity type being one of a plurality of virtual university activity types" to clarify what is being claimed. The amendment is specified by the specification as originally filed, e.g., page 204, line 22 – page 205, line 30. The Office Action alleges (Paragraph 41):

> Podgorny, in column 6, lines 52 et seq., the clients send and receive various messages from the applications 230a-b, 235a-b and control logic 225, which are sent to a server. The demon maintains logic copies of system state. Further in the prior art, it is stated in column 7 that the startup procedure will also specify room-specific information that may be used by the control logic 225 to establish the room-specific user interface.

Podgorny does disclose (Column 7, lines 28-45. Emphasis added.):

> The control logic 225 is also responsible for providing an interface to the user to display relevant information and to allow the user's initiation of **collaborative actions**. This user-interface is room-specific. For example, the control logic 225 might display textual or iconic representations of the sessions in a room, in conjunction with each session's participants, and the users in a room. An exemplary embodiment of the system provides a default set of control logic, but it is expected that developers will desire to construct implementation-specific control logic, exploiting the functionality provided by the system.

> An exemplary embodiment of the invention implements the control logic 225 as a downloadable applet, associated with a room page. This applet (or applets) is started by the demon 220, during startup. Moreover, the startup procedure will also specify room-specific information that may be used by the control logic 225 to establish the room-specific user interface.

Podgorny's teachings merely support collaborative actions and fail to even suggest a selected virtual university activity type from a plurality of virtual university activity types, e.g., student union collaboration, bulletin board posting, and obtaining a resource from a virtual library. Thus,

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the combination of Eisendrath and Podgorny fails to even suggest the feature of "providing a selected virtual university activity type based on the interaction parameters and the destination, the selected virtual activity type being one of a plurality of virtual university activity types."

Similarly, claim 10 includes the feature of "logic that provides a selected virtual university activity type based on the interaction parameters and the destination, the selected virtual university activity type being one of a plurality of virtual university activity types." Claim 11 includes the feature of "a code segment that provides a selected virtual university activity type based on the interaction parameters and the destination, the selected virtual university activity type being one of a plurality of virtual university activity types." Claims 10 and 11 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 12-14, and 16-19 ultimately depend from claims 1, 10, and 11. Thus, Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 1-4, 6-14, and 16-19.

Claims 5 and 15 are rejected by the Office Action under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Eisendrath and Podgorny and in further view of "what is well known in the art."

Applicant is amending claim 5 to include the feature of "wherein the destinations include a virtual classroom where a user can learn, view a directory of other students in a current class, view materials, grades, announcements, homework, review old tests, administer tests, ask questions of an instructor, enter a breakout room, review lectures, view the class schedule and view research topics." (Emphasis added.) Applicant is similarly amending claim 15 to include the feature of "wherein the destinations include a virtual classroom where a user can learn, view a directory of other students in a current class, view materials, grades, announcements, homework, review old tests, administer tests, ask questions of an instructor, enter a breakout room, review lectures, view the class schedule and view research topics." The amendments are supported by the patent application as originally filed, e.g., Page 203, line 30 – page 204, line 7 and Figure 89. Claims 5 and 15 ultimately depend from claims 1 and 11. Because the alleged teaching of "what is well known in the art" does not make up for the deficiencies of Eisendrath and Podgorny, claims 5 and 15 are patentable for at least the above reasons. Moreover, regarding claims 5 and 15, the Office Action asserts (Paragraph 45. Emphasis added.):

> As to part 3, Examiner would like to draw the Applicant's attention to their claim language. In which, it does not state that the classes have to be current classes, they only have to be a "directory of other students in a class". This could make
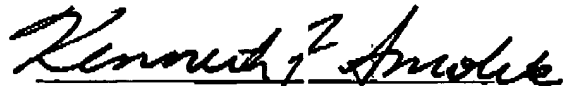
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one interpret the claim language as a student having the ability to view a list of students that have taken a class. Therefore, the prior art teaches the claim language as stated above.

However, claims 5 and 15 are amended to include "current classes". Applicant requests reconsideration of claims 5 and 15.

It is respectively submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance, and a Notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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